

SPRING MIGRATION IN LORAIN COUNTY, O., 1904.

BY LYNDS JONES.

There are migrations and migrations, but the migrations of 1904 have proved to be in a class by themselves. For eleven years I have studied both spring and fall migrations at Oberlin with more or less care, and for six years at Grinnell, Iowa. Only once during this period of seventeen years has there been anything like what we have witnessed this year. That was in the spring of 1888, at Grinnell, Iowa, when the weather conditions were somewhat similar during the last days of April and the first two weeks of May.

In 1888 the weather had been about normal up to the middle of April, when a decided warm wave of considerable extent called the early warblers, and other birds which travel with them, north. This wave subsided on the 28th under the pressure of a decided change to cold, cloudy weather, particularly cloudy nights. This unfavorable condition prevailed, with frost on the 13th, 14th and 16th of May, with continued cloudiness and northerly winds, until the 17th. The warm wave which followed brought the birds in swarms, bright males, young, and females, all in the same company, some of them apparently already mated. There were scattering arrivals during the interval, but these were largely confined to hardy individuals and did not represent the forward movement of the host. Some of the migrants tarried until June 10.

The season of 1904, while clearly below the average in temperature for nearly the whole of March, seemed to be opening on the first of April, but speedily made good the traditions of the day, for snow fell on the 3rd. A feeble warm wave on the 8th, 9th and 10th made very little impression on the birds. Another warm wave, covering the 21st, 22nd, 23rd and 24th, caused a sprinkling of arrivals, but the suc-

ceeding eight days were cold and wet, with northerly winds. Then followed a period of warmth and hope for eight days, with maximum temperatures ranging from 62 degrees on the 3rd to 84 degrees on the 7th, culminating on the 9th with a morning storm of rain and cold. More cold on the 10th, 11th and 12th, followed by two warm, and these by six cold days, closed the season so far as arrivals were concerned. At the present writing (May 27) a few of the transient warblers remain.

There had been no distinct movement up to May 4th, but scattering records of hardy individuals proved that the host was not far to the south. Clearly, the weather a hundred miles south was more favorable for the movement of the birds than at Oberlin, during the first five days of May. On the 6th matters began to turn to decidedly favorable, and on the 7th the belated birds rushed in by hundreds. The three succeeding nights were impossible for northern movement. In fact, only the night of the 12th gave much opportunity for migration in the darkness, and evidently not many birds were ready then, and they were obliged to wait until the 21st and 22nd, when the hosts moved north, leaving the 23rd with only the laggards.

As in 1888, brilliant males, females and young, were found together, and apparently in nearly equal numbers. Mating was clearly in progress. Very few birds, except the Raptores and Robins, had succeeded in making much progress in raising broods. Red-winged Blackbirds, which often have young before this time, had scarcely even begun their nests.

One of the most noticeable features of this exceptional migration was the superabundance of Grey-cheeked and Olive-backed Thrushes. For days they were more numerous than Robins, overflowing from the woods into the bordering fields. Wilson and Hermit Thrushes were also unusually numerous, but their numbers were insignificant compared with the others. Many of the warblers were also more than usually numerous, notably the Magnolia, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, and Black-throated Blue. On the other hand, the Cuckoos and Wood Pewee were hard to find, and the Chickadee almost refused to be seen or heard. Red-breasted Nuthatches were fairly common for more than a week. One of

the disappointing features was the almost entire absence of any but the regular shore-birds. Lake Erie and the mud flats seemed to have no attraction for them.

The birds of greatest interest, the occurrence of which is worthy of special record are, first, Prothonotary Warbler, twice recorded, being the first county record; Kirtland Warbler, the second county record; Hooded Warbler, the third county record, at least three individuals seen; Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, the first seen in Ohio by the writer; Short-billed Marsh Wren, the third county record; Brewster Warbler, singing almost like the Blue-winged; and a Yellow Warbler with a dusky forehead, suggesting a cross between the Yellow and Northern Yellow-throat, but probably a freak, since the dark forehead, running from eye to eye, was the only Yellow-throat character. It fraternized with the Yellow Warblers, fed like them, acted like them.

Taken all together, this migration season has been a capital illustration of the effect of weather upon the later spring migrations. The weather had continued unfavorable, in the main, for northward movements in the more northern regions, while becoming gradually favorable south. The birds promptly pushed north as far as conditions warranted, then halted to await a change. For the bunching of species which do not regularly migrate at the same time, in a region like Northern Ohio, it has never been surpassed in my experience, and does not seem likely to be repeated in the near future. One who could fail to improve the opportunities for bird study which these conditions presented, must be either luke-warm or else sinfully busy!

A DOOR-YARD LIST FROM MORTON PARK, ILL.

BY ORPHEUS M. SCHANTZ.

The "Door-yard List" from Denmark, Iowa, in the March BULLETIN, was so interesting to me that the thought came that possibly the observations of my wife and I, made in our 50 by 125 foot yard during the last three years, might be of interest to others.

We live about seven miles southwest of Chicago, in a little suburb which, fifteen years ago, contained not a house,